

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 STRE-00 IO-13 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10

EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05

SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01

DOE-11 /159 W

-----091954 132010Z /41

P 131817Z MAR 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7153

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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USMTN

ACTION STR

STR PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD

SUBJECT: MTN: BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THAILAND

REF: A) GENEVA 2973, B) BANGKOK 6387, C) STATE 24987

D) STATE 51922, E) GENEVA 3820

1. US MTN DEL (SWAIN) MET INFORMALLY MARCH 8 WITH THAI AMBASSADOR XUTO AND MTN STAFF - INSINGHA, ANGPIROJ, AND JAYANAMA - AS FOLLOW-UP TO PLURILATERAL MEETING WITH ASEAN GROUP (REFTEL A). US DEL EXPLAINED US TARIFF AND NTM OFFERS IN SOME DETAIL AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF RECEIVING ANY ADDITIONAL REQUESTS AS WELL AS IDENTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE THAI CONTRIBUTIONS BY END MARCH/ EARLY APRIL AT LATEST. US DEL EMPHASIZED THAT US AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WELL AS THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE COMMITTED TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS BY JULY AND, IN ORDER TO MEET MTN TIMETABLE, NEGOTIATIONS ON OFFERS AND REQUESTS SHOULD BE FULLY ENGAGED DURING MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY. US DEL ALSO BROUGHT UP ISSUE OF GATT ACCESSION.

2. THAI DEL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BRIEFING, NOTED THE DELAY GOT REQUESTED IN SUBMITTING REQUESTS (REFTEL B), AND STATED THAT GOT HAD NOT YET COMPLETED ITS EVALUATION OF OFFERS NOR ITS POSITION ON CONTRIBUTIONS, BUT PROBABLY WOULD DO SO AFTER AMBASSADOR XUTO'S RETURN TO BANGKOK THIS WEEK AND IN PREPARATION FOR PROPOSED MARCH 31 - APRIL 1 MEETING OF ASEAN SENIOR TRADE OFFICIALS (STO) IN SINGAPORE TO ASSESS ASEAN MTN POSITIONS IN CONTEXT OF ACCELERATED TIME FRAME. THAI DEL ASKED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO MTN TIMETABLE AND, IN COMMON WITH OTHER ASEAN MEMBER DELS, STRESSED DESIRABILITY OF A JOINT ASEAN/US MEETING ON THE HEELS OF STO MEETING (AS WELL AS POSSIBLE MTN DEL CONSULTATIONS IN CAPITALS) AS MEANS OF FORCING ASEAN OFFICIALS TO FOCUS ON MTN ISSUES AND OF REINFORCING THE SINCERITY WITH WHICH THE US AND OTHERS ARE MOVING TOWARDS SUBSTANTIVE COMPLETION OF MTN BY JULY. US DEL SAID THAT HE HAD NO FORMAL POSITION ON THIS BUT WOULD PASS ASEAN RECOMMENDATION TO WASHINGTON. (SEE REFTTEL E). WITH RESPECT TO GATT ACCESSION, THAI DEL SAID THAT IT HAS BEEN UNDER GOT CONSIDERATION FOR SOME TIME, BUT COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY INDICATION OF PRESENT GOT POSITION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR XUTO'S LETTER OF FEBRUARY 28 TO AMBASSADOR MCDONALD, US DEL EXPLAINED REASONS WHY THAILAND'S AGRICULTURAL REQUESTS (CITED IN MTN/AG/ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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R/2/ADD.1 AND MTN/TP/R/7/REV.3) WERE NOT CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION IN JANUARY 23 OFFER AND CONFIRMED THAT THAI'S MFN REQUESTS - AND NOT GSP REQUESTS - AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES MFN REQUESTS RECEIVED SUBSEQUENT TO PREPARATION OF US OFFER WERE NOW BEING REVIEWED IN WASHINGTON AND THAT ADDITIONAL OFFERS WOULD BE MADE (REFTEL D).

4. US DEL THEN REVIEWED JANUARY 23 OFFER AS IT AFFECTS US DUTIABLE IMPORTS OF \$133.4 MILLION FROM THAILAND IN 1976, STRESSING THAILAND'S COMMERCIAL STAKE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON PRODUCT SPECIFIC BASIS, AND REQUESTING GOT TO LOOK TO MORE THEN JUST ITEMS REQUESTED NOTING THAT THAILAND HAD HAD TRADE IN 448 PRODUCTS EXPORTED TO US IN 1976 ON WHICH US MADE AN OFFER. ON INDUSTRIAL ITEMS, US WAS OFFERING GREATER THAN FORMULA CUTS ON \$29.5 MILLION, FDRMULA CUTS ON \$26.7 MILLION, AND LESS THAN FORMULA CUTS ON \$28.0 MILLION. ON AGRICULTURAL ITEMS, US OFFER COVERED \$2.4 MILLION (INCLUDING A RESPONSE TO TWO OF THAILAND'S REQUESTS), WHILE ON ADDITIONAL \$5.5 MILLION NO OFFER HAD BEEN MADE IN INITIAL US OFFER SINCE US HAD NOT RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER. FYI AMEMBASSY BANGKOK. FIGURES

CITED ABOVE ARE BASED UPON THE US OFFER WHICH IS CLASSIFIED AS GATT "SECRET" AND DUE TO SENSITIVITY OF THE OFFER SHOULD NOT BE CITED IN CONVERSATION WITH PRESS AND PRIVATE SECTOR CONTACTS. US DEL PROVIDED THAI DEL WITH COPY OF US COMPUTER PRINT OUT OF 1976 US IMPORTS FROM THAILAND ANNOTATED ACCORDING TO OFFER TYPE. END FYI.

5. THAI DEL WAS APPRECIATIVE OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED, THOUGHT THAT GOT PROBABLY MIGHT CONSIDER RE-SUBMITTING GSP TARIFF REQUEST AS MFN REQUEST, URGED EARLY RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL AGRICULTURAL OFFERS, AND ASKED UPON WHOM DID THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFERS DEPEND AND WHETHER OFFERS COULD BE IMPROVED. US DEL SAID THAT IN ORDER TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7154
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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USMTN

ACTION STR STR PASS CODEL

IMPLEMENT (AND IMPROVE) THE US OFFER, THE PRINCIPAL

DC BENEFICIARIES WILL NEED TO MAKE RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS, WHILE PRINCIPAL LDC BENEFICIARIES WILL NEED TO MAKE SOME CONTRIBUTIONS TO TRADE LIBERALIZATION, CONSISTENT WITH THEIR DEVELOPMENT, FINANCIAL AND TRADE NEEDS. WHILE US WAS FLEXIBLE ON SPECIFIC THAI CONTRIBUTIONS, US DEL NOTED THAT US HAD ALREADY PROVIDED A RANGE OF POSSIBLE RESPONSES IT WOULD FIND OF VALUE - THOSE CONTAINED IN THE APRIL 1976 TROPICAL PRODUCTS INDICATIVE LIST, IN THE NOVEMBER 1, 1977 AGRICULTURAL AND NTM INDICATIVE LISTS, AND IN DECEMBER 16 PRELIMINARY INDICATIVE LIST FOR IMPROVED MARKET ACCESS ON NON-AGRICULTURAL ITEMS. WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER, US DEL GAVE A BRIEF CLARIFICATION BASED ON BACKGROUND PAPERS PREPARED FOR INTER-AGENCY DISCUSSION, STRESSING THAT MORE SPECIFIC REQUESTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMING WEEKS. IN ADDITION TO PRODUCT SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS, US DEL STATED THAT PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS CODES FOR IMPROVED RULES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADING PRACTICES COULD BE CONSIDERED AS GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS. THE THAI DEL THEN ASKED IF GATT ACCESSION WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY US AS A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION, TO WHICH US DEL REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: US DEL WOULD LIKE EARLY RESPONSE TO THAI REQUEST FOR (1) FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF US GENERAL NTM REQUEST RE: CUSTOMS CODE, AND (2) EXPLANATION OF US REGULATIONS REQUIRING THAT CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS BE HARVESTED FROM AREAS CERTIFIED AS SANITARY WATERS, CITED IN US NTM OFFERS ON CRAB MEAT (TSUS 114.15).

7. DRAFTED BY SWAIN. MCDONALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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